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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/457,839	12/09/1999	HONG Q BUI	AMAZON.025A	8131

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EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/457,839

Applicant(s)

BUI, HONG Q

Examiner

Cristina Owen Sherr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1 – 30 were examined.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement submitted on 9 December 1999 was filed after the mailing date of the application on 8 December 1999. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the petition is granted and the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.
3. The information disclosure statement submitted on 1 May 2001 was filed after the mailing date of the application on 9 December 1999. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the petition is granted and the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

#### ***Specification***

4. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1 – 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty et al (US 6,275,824 B1) in view of McDonough et al (US 6,070,142A).

7. O'Flaherty discloses a method for securely providing customer information to an Internet merchant, the method comprising obtaining customer information from a customer, storing the customer information, receiving a request that the customer information be provided to the merchant, authenticating the customer in response to the request; and providing the customer information to the merchant (Col. 4, ln 7-29);

further comprising obtaining authentication information from the customer in conjunction with the customer information (Col. 5 ln 17-30);

receiving authentication information submitted by an individual in response to a request on a web site of the merchant; and confirming that the authentication information submitted by the individual matches the authentication information obtained from the customer (Col. 5 ln 17-30);;

wherein the customer information and the authentication information obtained from the customer are obtained through a web site (Col. 5 ln 17-30);;

wherein the customer authentication information comprises a user ID and a password (Col. 5 ln 17-30);;

wherein the customer authentication information comprises a passcode (Col. 5 ln 17-30);;

receiving, from the merchant, authentication information obtained from an individual;

and confirming that the authentication information received from the merchant matches the authentication information obtained from the customer (Col. 5 ln 17-30);;

wherein the authentication information obtained from the individual is obtained by the merchant through a merchant web site (Col. 5 ln 17-30);

wherein the customer information and the authentication information obtained from the customer are obtained through a web site (Col. 5 ln 17-30);

wherein the customer authentication information comprises a user ID and a password (Col. 5 ln 17-30);

wherein the customer authentication information comprises a pass code (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
requesting that an individual submit authentication information (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
confirming that the authentication information submitted by the individual matches the authentic  
wherein the customer information and the authentication information obtained from the  
customer are obtained through a web site (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
wherein the customer authentication information comprises a user ID and a password  
(Col. 5 In 17-30);  
wherein the customer authentication information comprises a pass code (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
further comprising placing a cookie on the customer's computer and receiving the  
cookie (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
wherein further comprises receiving authentication information from an individual; and  
(D-3) confirming that the authentication information received matches the authentication  
information obtained from the customer (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
encrypting the customer information; and transmitting the encrypted customer  
information to the merchant (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
wherein the customer information and the authentication information obtained from the  
customer are obtained through a web site (Col. 5 In 17-30);  
wherein the customer authentication information comprises a password (Col. 5 In 17-30).

8. O'Flaherty does not however, disclose a method as described above further comprising receiving, from the merchant, purchase information regarding purchases made by the customer; and using the purchase information to augment a customer profile that represents the customer's interests;  
further comprising providing the customer profile to Internet merchants (McDonough (Col. Col. 6 In 10-65). McDonough, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of O'Flaherty and

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McDonough in order to provide better customer service as well as more user-friendly customer service.

9. Claims 25 - 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty et al (US 6,275,824 B1) in view of McDonough et al (US 6,070,142A).

10. O'Flaherty discloses a method for securely providing customer information to Internet merchants, the method comprising receiving a request that customer information of a registered customer be provided to a merchant; providing at least one form, wherein the at least one form solicits the entry of authentication information from a purchasing customer; receiving authentication information submitted by the purchasing customer; verifying that the authentication information submitted by the purchasing customer matches the authentication information of a registered customer; and providing the customer information of the registered customer to the merchant (Col. 5 In 17-30).

O'Flaherty does not however, disclose the method of claim 25, above, further comprising registering a customer by obtaining customer information and authentication information from the customer (McDonough Col. 6 In 10-65). McDonough, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of O'Flaherty and McDonough in order to provide better customer service as well as more user-friendly customer service.

11. Claims 27 - 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty et al (US 6,275,824 B1) in view of McDonough et al (US 6,070,142A).

12. O'Flaherty discloses a system for securely providing customer information to Internet merchants, the system comprising a first set of web pages configured to obtain customer information and authentication information from a customer; a database configured to associate and store the customer information and authentication information obtained from the customer; computer code that authenticates the customer

in response to a request to provide the customer information to a merchant; and computer code that provides the customer information to the merchant upon authentication of the customer (Col. 5 In 17-30).

13. O'Flaherty does not however, disclose the system of claim 27, above, further comprising a second set of web pages configured to obtain authentication information from an individual, wherein the computer code that authenticates the customer processes the authentication information provided by the individual (McDonough Col. Col. 6 In 10-65). McDonough, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of O'Flaherty and McDonough in order to provide better customer service as well as more user-friendly customer service.

14. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty et al (US 6,275,824 B1) in view of McDonough et al (US 6,070,142A).

15. O'Flaherty discloses a method for securely obtaining customer information from an information service, the method comprising requesting that a customer submit authentication information and providing the submitted authentication information to the information service in conjunction with a request for customer information (Col. 5 In 17-30).

16. O'Flaherty does not however, disclose the system of claim 29, above, further comprising receiving customer information from the information service in response to the request (McDonough Col. Col. 6 In 10-65). McDonough, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of O'Flaherty and McDonough in order to provide better customer service as well as more user-friendly customer service.

17. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Flaherty et al (US 6,275,824 B1) in view of McDonough et al (US 6,070,142A).

18. O'Flaherty discloses a method through which an Internet merchant can securely obtain customer information from an information service, the method comprising providing a checkout web page to a customer (Col. 5 ln 17-30).

19. O'Flaherty does not however, disclose the system of claim 29, above, further comprising the checkout web having a link to an information service web page, the link including URL encoded information regarding the identity of the merchant; and receiving customer information from the information service (McDonough Col. Col. 6 ln 10-65). McDonough, however, does, as noted above. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of O'Flaherty and McDonough in order to provide better customer service as well as more user-friendly customer service.

### ***Conclusion***

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

21. Mital (US 5,903,652A discloses a system and apparatus for monitoring secure information in a computer network.

22. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the Examiner should be directed to Cristina Owen Sherr, whose telephone number is (703) 305-0625. The Examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

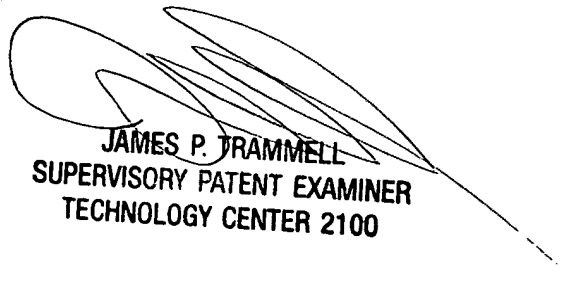
23. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, James Trammell, can be reached at (703) 305-9768. The FAX phone number for this group is (703) 746-7239.

24. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



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